

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/600,988

Examiner

Michael t. Tran

Applicant(s) 

CERNEA, RAUL-ADRIAN

Art Unit

2827

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to communications filed March 15, 2005.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-19.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 24 September 2004 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
- (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
- 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☒ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date 031505
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____.
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____.


MICHAEL TRAN

DETAILED ACTION

1. In response to the Communication dated March 15, 2005, claims 1-19 are active in this application.

Information Disclosure Statement

2. The information disclosure statement filed March 15, 2005 has been considered.

Allowable Subject Matter

3. Claims 1-19 are allowable over the prior art of record.
4. The following is an Examiner's statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter: the prior art of records does not show (in addition to other elements in the claim) the following:
 - Reducing hot electron generation, without changing the programming voltage or the constant current, in response to increasing charge level of the charge storage unit such that generation of hot electrons ceases, or substantially ceases, when the level of charge in the charge storage unit reaches within a margin of the predetermined level.
 - Applying a data-dependant voltage to the source of the first transistor sufficient to initially produce hot electrons in the first transistor for programming the charge storage unit so that as the charge storage unit becomes charged hot electron production is reduced and charging of the charge storage unit is reduced.

- A current mirror circuit that forms a current mirror with a first transistor of the memory cell to provide a constant current through the first transistor of the memory cell; and a data dependant voltage supply connected to said memory cell.
- Reducing the production of hot electrons in response to the charging of the charge storage unit such that hot electrons cease to be produced as the charge level approaches the target level.

Remarks

5. Upon a close examination of the written opinion of the international searching authority provided in the IDS, specifically sections V and VIII, the examiner has the following remarks:

- With regard to section V, Citations and Explanations, item 2, the examiner could not find any support for the recitation of "Applying a data-dependant voltage to the source of the first transistor sufficient to initially produce hot electrons in the first transistor for programming the charge storage unit so that as the charge storage unit becomes charged hot electron production is reduced and charging of the charge storage unit is reduced" in the cited section, col. 9, l.26-58, as indicated in the report.
- With regard to section VIII, Certain Observations, item 2, it appears that the remarks made, with regard to claim 19, implies that there is a need to include a device within the claim language; however, the examiner considers the

claim to be a method step which does not require a mean to perform a particular step.

6. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the Issue Fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the Issue Fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Michael T. Tran whose telephone number is (571) 272-1795.

8. Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application should be directed to Group receptionist whose telephone number is (571) 272-1650.



Michael T. Tran

April 13, 2005

MICHAEL TRAN
PRIMARY EXAMINER